

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

STATEMENT SHOWING MINIMUM NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND ORDINARY HOURS OF LABOUR FOR WORKERS IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA AT-

31ST DECEMBER, 1953

(Rates of Wage are quoted from the latest Award, Determination or Agreement operative
ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1953)

ADULT MALES

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS, ETC.</u>				
<u>COOPERING -</u>	s. d.		s. d.	
Cooper	295/-	40	305/-	40
<u>FURNITURE -</u>				
Cabinet Maker	293/-	"	285/-	"
Chairmaker	293/-	"	285/-	"
French Polisher	293/-	"	285/-	"
Wood Carver	293/-	"	285/-	"
Wood Machinist	293/-	"	265/- to 285/-	"
<u>SAWMILLING & TIMBER YDS.-</u>				
Box and Case Maker	273/-	"	265/-	"
Labourer	257/-	"	249/-	"
Machinist -				
Boults Carver	289/6	"	281/6	"
Moulding	264/6 & 289/6	"	256/6 & 281/6	"
Planing	274/6 & 289/6	"	266/6 & 281/6	"
Shaping	289/6	"	281/6	"
Orderman	276/6	"	268/6	"
Sawyer -				
Band or Jig	274/- to 295/-	"	266/- to 287/-	"
Circular	275/- & 287/6	"	267/- & 279/6	"
Tallyman	274/6	"	266/6	"
<u>ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOILERMAKING -</u>				
Boilermaker	295/-	40	287/-	40
Helper	266/-	"	258/-	"
Labourer	252/-	"	244/-	"
<u>BRASSWORKING -</u>				
Finisher	280/- & 295/-	"	272/- & 287/-	"
Moulder	271/- to 295/-	"	263/- to 287/-	"
<u>ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION</u>				
Electrical Fitter	201/-	"	287/-	"
Linesman	295/-	"	275/-	"
Electrical Mechanic	301/-	"	287/-	"
<u>ELECTRICAL SUPPLY -</u>				
Armature Winder	342/-	"	304/-	"
Instrument Maker	357/-	"	319/6	"
Linesman	318/- & 330/-	"	277/- to 289/-	"
Shift Electrician	362/-	"	304/-	"
<u>ENGINEERING -</u>				
Blacksmith	296/6	"	288/6	"
Brassfinisher	280/- & 295/-	"	272/- & 287/-	"
Coppersmith	296/6	"	288/6	"
Fitter	295/-	"	287/-	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1953 (Cont'd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS (Cont'd)</u>				
<u>ENGINEERING - (Cont'd.)</u>	s. d.		s. d.	
Labourer	252/-	40	244/-	40
Patternmaker	308/-	"	300/-	"
Shaper	280/- & 295/-	"	272/- & 287/-	"
Striker	266/- & 268/-	"	258/- & 260/-	"
Turner	295/-	"	287/-	"
<u>FOUNDRY</u>				
Coremakers - machine	271/- to 282/-	"	263/- to 274/-	"
Coremakers - jobbing	295/-	"	287/-	"
Dressers	271/- to 281/-	"	263/- to 273/-	"
Furnacemen	277/- to 280/-	"	269/- to 272/-	"
Moulders - machine	271/- to 282/-	"	263/- to 274/-	"
Moulders - jobbing	295/-	"	287/-	"
<u>SHEET METAL WORKING -</u>				
Canister Maker	269/-	"	261/-	"
Machineist	265/-	"	259/-	"
Solderer	265/- & 269/-	"	257/- & 261/-	"
Sheet metal worker 1st class	295/-	"	287/-	"
Sheet metal worker, 2nd class	289/-	"	272/-	"
<u>FOOD, DRINK, ETC.</u>				
<u>BAKING (BREAD) -</u>				
Board Hand	303/-	40	304/2	38
Bread Carter (1 horse)	283/-	"	279/-	40
Ovensman	311/6	"	304/2	38
Single Hand	308/-	"	315/-	38
<u>BAKING (BISCUITS AND CAKES) -</u>				
Baker	275/6	"	276/-	40
General Labourer	249/-	"	254/-	"
Mixer	264/- & 268/-	"	273/-	"
<u>BREWING -</u>				
Cellarman	277/- & 282/-	"	276/-	"
Driver (Motor 3 tons)	291/-	"	290/9	"
Labourer	277/-	"	271/-	"
Malt Hand	277/-	"	276/-	"
Towerman	282/-	"	275/-	"
<u>BUTCHERING (RETAIL) -</u>				
Carter (1 horse)	278/-	"	258/6	"
General Butcher	298/-	"	290/-	"
Shopman	298/-	"	290/-	"
Smallgoodsman	303/-	"	295/-	"
<u>CANISTER MAKING -</u>				
Canister Maker (Grade 1)	285/-	"	277/-	"
Stationman	261/-	"	267/-	"
<u>WELDING -</u>				
General labourer	258/-	"	258/-	"
Solderer	267/-	"	267/-	"
<u>WIREWORKING -</u>				
Copper	288/-	"	305/-	"
Guillotine Hand	273/-	"	274/-	"
Jockeyman	283/-	"	301/-	"
Packer	273/-	"	301/-	"
Seamer	288/-	"	305/-	"
<u>MILLING (FLOUR) -</u>				
Miller (Shift)	295/- to 320/-	"	295/- to 320/-	"
Packorman	280/-	"	280/-	"
Purifierman	283/-	"	283/-	"
Smuttermen	283/-	"	283/-	"
Storeman (Head)	285/- & 290/-	"	285/- & 290/-	"
Topman	283/-	"	283/-	"
<u>STRICKWORKING -</u>				
Packer	268/6	"	251/-	"
Pastrycock	289/6	"	256/-	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1953 (Cont'd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOOTMAKING -</u>	s. d.		s. d.	
Bootmaker	280/-	40	280/-	40
<u>TAILORING (ORDER) -</u>				
Cutter	368/-	"	319/-	"
Presser	283/-	"	283/-	"
Tailor	290/-	"	290/-	"
<u>TAILORING (READYMADE) -</u>				
Cutter	294/-	"	294/-	"
Presser	283/-	"	283/-	"
Tailor	290/-	"	290/-	"
Trimmer	283/-	"	283/-	"
<u>TEXTILE WORKING -</u>				
(Woollen Mills) -				
Carder	265/-	"	265/-	"
Dyehouseman	270/-	"	270/-	"
Labourer (General)	241/-	"	241/-	"
Scourer (Wool)	270/- & 277/6	"	270/- & 277/6	"
Spinner	265/-	"	265/-	"
Loom Tuner	258/- to 288/-	"	258/- to 288/-	"
Warper (Plain)	267/-	"	267/-	"
<u>BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOOKBINDING -</u>				
Finisher	301/-	40	293/-	40
Bookbinder	301/-	"	293/-	"
Paper Ruler	301/-	"	293/-	"
<u>PRINTING (DAILY NEWSPAPER)</u>				
Compositor (Machine) -				
Day Work	377/6 to 382/6	"	372/6	38
Night Work	397/6 to 402/6	"	397/6	"
<u>Machinist (First Hand) -</u>				
Day Work	341/6 to 347/6	"	357/6	40
Night Work	361/6 to 367/6	"	382/6	38
<u>Publisher - (Day & Night)</u>	316/6 to 341/6	"	309/- to 336/6	38 & 40
<u>Reader -</u>				
Day Work	349/6 & 352/-	"	358/-	40
Night Work	369/6 & 372/-	"	383/-	38
<u>Stereotyper -</u>				
Day Work	341/6 to 350/-	"	353/-	39
Night Work	361/6 to 370/-	"	374/-	38
<u>PRINTING (JOBBER OFFICES) -</u>				
Compositor	301/- to 311/6	"	293/- to 303/6	40
Linotype Operator	311/6	"	303/6	"
Machinist	301/-	"	293/-	"
Reader	304/6	"	296/6	"
Stereotyper	301/-	"	293/-	"
<u>OTHER MANUFACTURING</u>				
<u>ENGINEERING -</u>				
Burner	273/- & 279/-	40	278/-	40
Pitman	290/-	"	293/6 & 298/6	"
Drawer	295/6	"	277/6 to 290/-	"
Trucker	287/-	"	272/-	"
Setter	295/6	"	277/6 & 290/-	"
<u>VEHICLE BUILDING -</u>				
Bodymaker, 1st class	295/-	"	287/-	"
Labourer	246/-	"	238/-	"
Painter	268/6 to 289/6	"	260/6 to 281/6	"
Springmaker	295/-	"	287/-	"
Trimmer	280/- & 289/6	"	272/- & 281/6	"
Wheelwright	295/-	"	287/-	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS. ADULT MALES. 31ST DECEMBER, 1953 (Cont'd)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage		Rates of Wage	
	Hours		Hours	
OTHER MANUFACTURING (Cont'd.)				
	s.	d.	s.	d.
<u>GAS-MAKING AND SUPPLY -</u>				
Coke Trimmer	271/-	40	258/-	40
Gasfitter	313/-	"	294/6	"
Labourer	258/-	"	252/-	"
Motor Tester	272/- & 284/-	"	281/-	"
Service Layer	287/-	"	275/-	"
Service Layer's Labourer	268/-	"	255/-	"
Stoker	282/-	"	270/- & 275/-	"
<u>JEWELLERY -</u>				
Chainmaker	293/-	"	289/-	"
Mounter	276/- to 301/-	"	274/-	"
Setter	293/- to 301/-	"	279/6	"
<u>LEATHER AND CANVAS WORK</u>				
Canvas worker	277/-	"	269/-	"
Leather Worker	283/-	"	275/-	"
<u>TANNING AND CURRYING -</u>				
Beamsman	290/6	"	282/6	"
Labourer	266/6	"	258/6	"
Limeman	288/6	"	280/6	"
Machinist -				
Shaving	291/6 to 297/6	"	283/6 to 289/6	"
Splitting	297/6 to 304/6	"	289/6 to 296/6	"
Unhairing	290/6	"	282/6	"
Tableman	285/6 to 291/6	"	277/6 to 283/6	"
<u>BUILDING *</u>				
Bricklayer (Surface)	333/4	40	323/4	40
Bricklayer (sewer and tunnel)	346/8	"	334/2	"
Carpenter	338/4	"	322/6	"
Mason (Stone)	322/-	"	315/-	"
Painter	321/8	"	320/-	"
Paperhanger	321/8	"	320/-	"
Signwriter	334/2	"	320/-	"
Plasterer (Surface)	330/10	"	323/4	"
Plumber	330/9	"	323/4	"
Labourer -				
Bricklayer's	295/10	"	282/6	"
Carpenter's	295/10	"	282/6	"
Concrete Worker	295/10	"	282/6	"
Earth Excavator	295/10	"	282/6	"
Gear Worker	305/10	"	291/8	"
Scaffold Hand	305/10	"	291/8	"
<u>RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES</u>				
<u>RAILWAYS</u>				
Engine Driver Loco -				
Steam, diesel electric or electric	317/- & 326/-	φ	312/- & 321/-	φ
Express mail or passenger	335/-	φ	330/-	φ
Shunting Engine	292/- & 298/6	φ	281/- & 287/6	φ
Fireman -				
Ordinary	278/- & 282/-	φ	273/- & 277/-	φ
Express mail or passenger	285/-	φ	281/-	φ
Shunting Engine	266/- to 275/-	φ	255/- to 264/-	φ
Guard -				
1st Class	288/- to 296/-	φ	296/6	φ
2nd Class	284/-	φ	279/- to 290/6	φ
Porter -	259/- to 265/-	φ	254/6 to 268/-	φ
Shunter -				
Head	314/- to 326/-	*		*
Leading	290/6 to 305/-	*	287/6 to 293/-	*
Ordinary	271/- to 281/-	*	268/- to 277/6	*

* Rates are weekly equivalents of hourly rates. They include allowances for leave, holidays, following the job etc.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1953 (Cont'd)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage		Rates of Wage	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
<u>RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES (CONT'D)</u>				
<u>RAILWAYS (Con'td)</u>				
Signalman -				
1st Class	317/-	*	301/6	*
2nd Class	309/-	ø	288/6	ø
3rd Class	301/-	ø	280/6	ø
<u>TRAMWAYS -</u>				
Conductor -				
1st Year	264/-	ø	260/-	ø
2nd Year	270/-	ø	266/-	ø
Thereafter	270/-	ø	266/-	ø
Labourer	258/6	ø	254/-	ø
Track Repairer	266/- & 269/-	ø	263/-	ø
<u>Motorman -</u>				
1st Year	273/-	ø	260/-	ø
2nd Year	273/-	ø	266/-	ø
Thereafter	273/-	ø	266/-	ø
Pitman	283/-	ø	274/-	ø
* 76 hours per fortnight. ø 80 hours per fortnight.				
<u>TRANSPORT (OTHER)</u>				
<u>CARRYING MERCHANDISE -</u>				
Carter -				
1 Horse	274/-	40	258/6	40
2 Horses	279/-	"	266/6	"
Stable Hand	273/6	"	253/-	"
Motor Lorries & Waggons -				
3 tons	286/-	"	272/6	"
Over 3 tons but under 6 tons	285/- to 298/-	"	277/-	"
<u>WHARF LABOUR -</u>				
Wharf Labourer (per hour)	8/10		8/10	
<u>HOTELS ETC.</u>				
<u>HOTELS -</u>				
Barman	273/-	40	265/-	40
Billiard Marker	263/-	"	255/-	"
Cock	273/- to 313/-	"	265/- to 305/-	"
Handyman	263/-	"	255/-	"
Kitchenman	263/-	"	255/-	"
Porter	263/-	"	255/-	"
Waiter	263/-	"	255/-	"
<u>HAIRDRESSING -</u>				
Hairdresser (Mens)	283/- to 293/-	"	276/-	"
<u>GENERAL LABOUR</u>				
<u>FACTORY ENGINE DRIVING -</u>				
Engine Driver -				
1st Class	280/- & 286/6	40	272/- & 278/6	40
2nd Class	275/- & 280/-	"	267/- & 272/-	"
<u>Fireman -</u>				
1st Class	275/-	"	267/-	"
2nd Class	270/-	"	262/-	"
<u>MUNICIPAL -</u>				
Labourer	269/-	"	263/6	"
Street Sweeper	274/-	"	269/-	"
<u>SHOP ASSISTANTS -</u>				
Boot Salesman	285/-	"	274/-	"
Drapery Salesman	285/-	"	274/-	"
Furniture Salesman	285/-	"	277/-	"
Grocery Salesman	285/-	"	270/-	"
Hardware Salesman	285/-	"	274/-	"
Men's Clothing Salesman	285/-	"	274/-	"
<u>CREWMEN AND PACKERS -</u>				
Packer (General)	275/6 & 278/6	"	267/-	"
Storeman (General)	274/- & 276/6	"	267/-	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT FEMALES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1953 (Cont'd)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage		Rates of Wage	
		Hours		Hours
	<u>FOOD</u>			
	s. d.		s. d.	
Biscuit Making	184/-	40	197/3	40
Confectionery	195/-	"	189/9	"
	<u>CLOTHING & TEXTILES</u>			
Boatmaking	195/-	40	195/-	40
Dressmaking	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-	"
Millinery	183/-	"	183/-	"
Shirt Making	183/-	"	183/-	"
Underclothing	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-	"
<u>TAILORING - (ORDER -</u>				
Coat Hand (Machinist)	213/-	"	213/-	"
Trousers & Vest Hand	200/6	"	200/6	"
Tailorress	229/-	"	229/-	"
Adult Female	183/-	"	183/-	"
<u>TAILORING - RE-MAKE -</u>				
Coat Hand (Machinist)	203/-	"	203/-	"
Trousers & Vest Hand	198/-	"	198/-	"
Tailorress	290/-	"	290/-	"
Adult Female	183/-	"	183/-	"
<u>TEXTILE WORKING WOOLLEN MILLS</u>				
Comb Minder	194/-	"	194/-	"
Darner & Mender	196/- & 199/-	"	196/- & 199/-	"
Warper, Plain	196/-	"	196/-	"
Weaver (Loom)	199/-	"	199/-	"
Gillbox Minder	193/-	"	193/-	"
Other Adult	181/-	"	181/-	"
	<u>BOOKS, PRINTING, ETC.</u>			
<u>BOOKBINDING -</u>				
Folder	206/-	40		40
Sewer	206/-	"		"
<u>CARDBOARD BOX -</u>				
Boxmaker	201/- to 210/6	"	195/- to 204/6	"
Other	194/6	"	186/6	"
<u>Printing -</u>				
Jobbing Office Assistant	206/-	"	200/-	"
	<u>HOTELS AND SHOPS</u>			
<u>HOTELS -</u>				
Barmaid	212/-	40	265/-	40
Housemaid	196/-	"	190/-	"
Laundress	200/-	"	194/-	"
Waitress - Head	202/-	"	200/-	"
Other	196/-	"	190/-	"
<u>RESTAURANTS -</u>				
Pantry Maid	182/-	"	186/6	"
Waitress	182/-	"	186/6	"
<u>CLERKS -</u>				
Cashiers (Shops)	204/-	"	205/6	"
Clerical Assistants	207/-	"	205/6	"
<u>SHOPS</u>				
Boot Saleswoman	204/- & 285/-	"	193/-	"
Drapery Saleswoman	204/- & 285/-	"	193/- & 274/-	"
Fruit & Confectionery Saleswoman	204/-	"	189/-	"
Newsagent & Bookstall Saleswoman	204/-	"	178/- & 182/-	"